Library

SHAFTESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1963

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Medical Officer of Health : NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector : F. E. CASEMORE, A.I.A.S., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st June, 1964.

To The Chairman and Members,
Shaftesbury Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1963.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Allowing for the smallness of the figures under consideration the vital statistics (page 1) compare favourably with those for the Country as a whole.

Measles was epidemic during the year. The presence of Sonne Dysentery in Iwerne Minster ppoved troublesome.

An outbreak of gastro-enteritis affecting thirty three persons visiting a summer camp at Iwerne Minster was suspected to be Sonne Dysentery. Laboratory investigation eliminated this condition and further investigation suggested the outbreak was due to a virus infection introduced by one of the members of the staff of the camp.

I am indebted to your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. Casemore, for his co-operation and help during the year and for his assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk, Miss J. Shirley for her efficient services during the year.

I would also like to acknowledge the happy co-operation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk and the other members of your staff.

Finally, may I thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b3007972x

SHAFTESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR

1 9 6 3

A. Area - 42,000 acres
Rateable value: 1st April, 1964 - £254,022
Production of a penny rate: 1963/64 - £933
1964/65 - £997 (est)

Vital Statistics

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 9,730

LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	Female		Comparative rates (a) Shaftesbury R.D.	(b) England & Wales
Total	61	76	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 14.1	16.2	18.2
Illegitimate	6	3			

STILLBIRTHS

Total	1	2	Rate per 1,000 live & stillbirths = 21.5	21.5	17.3
Illegitimate	-	-			

DEATHS

Total	81	66	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 15.1	12.5	12.2

Deaths in Infants

Under 1 Year	2	1	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = 21.9	21.9	20.9
Under 4 weeks	1	1			
Under 1 week	1	1			
(all legitimate)					

	1963	1962	1961	1960
Deaths from Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Cancer of the Lungs	6	6	4	4
" " Other Cancer	23	21	22	15
" " Coronary Disease(Angina)	25	20	27	12
" " Other Heart or Vascular diseases	55	58	35	40
" " Influenza	2	Nil	3	Nil
" " Pneumonia	6	7	4	4
" " Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	4	Nil	1
" " All other accidents	3	4	Nil	1
" " Suicide	1	2	3	Nil
" " Leukaemia & Aleukemia	1	1	1	Nil

B. Nature of the District

The district is mainly rural in character with an urbanised area in Gillingham. The principal industries and trades of the district are of a mixed nature which includes brewing, brick making, timber works, glove manufacturing and the production of dried milk products. There are two large bacon factories in the district.

C. Health Services in the District which are not the responsibility of the District Council

The Hospital Service

From the Northern part of the district, patients attend the Westminster Memorial Hospital and the Salisbury Hospitals in the Salisbury Group Management Committee of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board. From the more Southern part of the district patients attend the Blandford Hospital and the Bournemouth and Poole Hospitals of the Bournemouth and East Dorset Group Hospital Management Committee of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board.

Laboratory Services

The laboratories at Dorchester and Salisbury of the Public Health Laboratory Service cover your district. The service has again proved, in every way, to be co-operative and efficient.

General Medical Practitioner, Opthalmic and Pharmaceutical Services

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Committee.

County Council Services

The personal preventive health services are the responsibility of the County Council.

They comprise, the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, the care and after care of the tuberculous, blind and handicapped, health education, the domestic help service and the welfare of the aged.

Voluntary Services

Acknowledgment must be made of the excellent work carried out in the district by the British Red Cross Society with regard to the welfare of aged persons, the handicapped and disabled.

Prevention of Disease

Prophylactic Inoculations Preventive inoculation against disease is the responsibility of the County Council through the school medical, child welfare and medical practitioner services.

A poliomyelitis vaccination treatment session was held regularly in Shaftesbury on the second Thursday in the month and at Gillingham on the first Wednesday in the month from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

During the year the following treatments were carried out -

	1963	1962	1961
Poliomyelitis			
Two treatments (Salk)	3	42	417
Three treatments(Salk or	198	470	436
Four treatments Oral)	255	73	714
Diphtheria			
Primary treatments	114	139	143
Booster treatments	62	100	112
Whooping Cough			
Primary treatments	106	109	129
Booster treatments	24	19	14
Tetanus			
Primary treatments	124	239	230
Booster treatments	48	42	67
Smallpox			
Primary vaccinations	49	316	109
Re-vaccinations	41	431	24

D. Environmental Health Services

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health(Part time) - Noel F. Pearson M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P.,D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset Area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is one half day per week.

Chief Public Health Inspector (Part time) - F.E. Casemore, A.I.A.S.,M.R.S.H.,M.A.P.H.I.
Also Surveyor to the Council.

Senior Public Health Inspector (Full time) - W.E. Breeds, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector (Part time) - W.C. Wagg, M.A.P.H.I.,M.R.S.H.

Public Health Staff (Continued)

Meat Inspector (Full time) - R.A. Leach, M.A.P.H.I.

Meat Inspector (Full time) - B.R. Marchant, M.R.S.H., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Clerical Staff - Two Clerks (Part time)

Last year I drew your attention to the limited time which your public health staff were in a position to give adequate attention to routine statutory public health duties and added -

> "Any additional time as a result of new legislation will certainly call for an increase of staff if the department is to be efficient"

During the year the Offices, Shops and Railways Act received the Royal Assent and is due to come into operation during 1964. An increase in staff to meet the requirements of this Act, will be imperative.

WATER SUPPLY

The statutory water undertaking in the district is the West Wilts Water Board. There has been close co-operation between the Board's Officers and your public health officers, copies of reports on samples of water taken by the Board are forwarded to my office and reciprocally, copies of samples taken on your behalf are sent to the Board.

The supplies remained throughout the year, adequate to meet the demand and the purity of the supplies have remained satisfactory.

Weekly samples have been taken from the supplies for bacteriological examination.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Although preparatory work in connection with schemes for Bourton, Motcombe, Fontmell Magna, Stour Provost, East Stour, Kington Magna and Buckhorn Weston was continued during the year, none of these schemes had been commenced by the end of the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House Refuse and Salvage The service for the collection of house refuse has continued as in previous years, providing a weekly service in Gillingham, a fortnightly one in nine parishes and a monthly one in the remainder of the district.

Ninety nine tons of salvage was collected during the year bringing in revenue of £503 compared with £773 during the preceding year.

Cesspool Emptying During the year, no cesspool emptying was undertaken by the Council other than from its own Council house septic tanks. This is by arrangement with a Contractor. The Council is introducing a scheme during 1964 to provide some assistance to householders in non sewered areas.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION

Until adequate parish sewerage schemes can be provided a gross amount of pollution of streams and ditches in the district cannot be avoided. This type of pollution is present in many parishes.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (Nil figures are not given)

	No. of Premises on Register	Inspections
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	5	4
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	43	10
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	3
Total	51	17

	No. of cases in which defects were:-		
	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Sanitary Conveniences			
Not separate for sexes	1	Nil	1

No. of Outworkers - 86 (Wearing Apparel)

SHOPS ACTS

Ten inspections were carried out. No defects were found.

THE CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No formal action was called for or taken during the year.

At one bacon factory the second coal fired boiler was voluntarily converted to an oil-fired appliance early in the year so that there is no visible pollution of the atmosphere at this factory.

SWIMMING BATHS

There is one public swimming bath in the district, being the Gillingham bath. The efficiency of the chlorination plant and the quality of the water has been regularly checked and has proved to be satisfactory.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES

Thirteen sites are licensed under the Caravan Sites Control and Development Act, 1960. The majority of these are for individual caravans for temporary use. One site is on a main trunk road for the summer use of touring caravans.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

Two premises were treated for infestation by flies. Treatment was carried out by pressure spraying with insecticide and fumigating.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The duties of the Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee whose activities cover the five districts in the North Dorset area and the Beaminster Rural District. Four hundred and seventy three inspections were carried out during the year by the rodent operators.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACTS

Complaints were received from residents in close proximity to a set of boarding kennels in the district concerning noise from barking dogs. It was decided that the Act did not give sufficient power for any legal action to be taken as the owner could claim he was taking all reasonable action to counteract the noise, a defence allowed for business premises.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

No premises in the district are registered or licensed under this Act.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

During the year there was one shop in the district licensed for the keeping and sale of pet animals under the above mentioned Act. Six inspections were carried out during the year.

SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS)

Inspections have continued to be carried out and conditions in general have been found to be satisfactory.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951 - Section 47

No action had to be taken during the year, under the above-mentioned Act, for the compulsory removal of any person to hospital or institution for care and attention.

HOUSING (The figures in parenthesis refer to the preceding year)

Total number of houses in the district 3,312 (3,180)

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

Total No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year	88	(75)
No. of inspections made	107	(86)
No. of informal notices served	33	(42)
No. of informal notices complied with	21	(15)
No. of statutory notices served	4	(6)
No. of statutory notices complied with	4	(5)
No. of houses reported under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1958	2	(6)

Action taken by the Local Authority in respect of such houses -

Demolition or Closing Orders made Nil (5)

Undertakings accepted for -

Closure	Nil	(1)
Reconditioning	1	(-)
Other Action	1	(-)

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year Nil (Nil)

Housing (Continued)

Overcrowding

No cases of statutory overcrowding were found or abated during the year.

Houses Let in Lodgings

No houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Improvement Grants

Twenty one (sixteen) applications were received during the year in respect to 'standard' grants and seventeen (twenty nine) in respect to 'discretionary' grants.

The standard improvement grants are undoubtedly a most valuable contribution toward the improvement of the general standard of housing. Far too many houses, not 'unfit' within the meaning of the Housing Acts remain unfit by any reasonable standard due to the lack of basic sanitary amenities.

New Houses

Four new houses were completed by the Council during the year. Thirty seven houses were built by private enterprise.

At the end of the year there were two hundred and nineteen applicants on the Council house waiting list compared with two hundred and thirty seven at the beginning of the year. Forty nine families were housed by the Council during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Milk

Food & Drugs Act, 1955

No. of 'dealers' subject to licensing by the District Council	Nil
No. of 'dairies' in the district subject to registration	4
No. of 'distributors' subject to registration	7

Samples

Twenty three samples of milk were taken and submitted for examination during the year.

Milk & Dairies (General)Regulations, 1959 - Regulation 20

No action was called for or taken during the year.

Other Food Premises

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

Hotels, Restaurants, Cafes and boarding houses	29
Canteens - (workplace)	4
Confectioners	9
Meat and Fish	10
Grocers	6
Mixed Stores	30
Boarding Schools and other residential institutions	7
Food factories, slaughterhouses and canteens	14
Stalls and Clubs	1
Other (including school kitchens)	9

No. of food premises subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of -

Ice Cream	44
Sausages & Prepared meats	7
Fish and Chips	1

No. of samples of ice cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test 60

No. of premises inspected during the year	39 (81)
No. of inspections carried out	39 (81)

The efficiency of a public health department can be measured by the extent to which adequate supervision of premises where food is prepared or sold, is carried out.

Unless all such premises are inspected at least twice a year (with any necessary follow up visits) the department is failing to carry out its minimal duty.

This is, I regret to report, the position in your district at the present time.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc) Regulations,1947 - 1952

All the ice cream sold, comes into the district pre-packed.

There is no ice cream manufacturer registered in the district.

Byelaws in respect of Handling and Wrapping Food Etc.

Such byelaws are not operative within the district.

Food Inspection

Slaughterhouses Three slaughterhouses (two being connected with bacon factories) are registered in the district.

Meat Inspection

During the year the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963 came into operation. These regulations placed a statutory obligation on the Council to carry out inspection of carcases slaughtered for human consumption in its area and laid down a statutory standard of inspection.

Unless this legislation is amended before October 1965 or your Council is in a better position (than at the present time) to engage meat inspectorate staff, I anticipate a very serious situation will have developed affecting the economy of the slaughterhouse and bacon factories in your district.

With this possibility in mind I feel that it is imperative to record the position at the present time.

When the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963 came into operation on October 1st, 1963, I advised the Council that to implement these regulations, without detriment to its general public health responsibilities, would require the appointment of two additional whole time meat inspectors. Alarmed at the expense which these additional appointments would be to the ratepayers, the Council approached the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries. As a result the Ministry made a careful and detailed investigation of local conditions and made a report advising that, providing the slaughterhouses were prepared (or could be made) to co-operate to a certain extent, then the Regulations could be implemented by the appointment of one additional whole time Meat Inspector, only.

The Council had no alternative but to accept, and act upon, this advice. An advertisement for one additional whole time meat inspector, only, was therefore, published.

To date no appointment has been made and the Council has not been in a position to carry out its statutory duty to inspect carcases of animals slaughtered at one bacon factory.

Well before October 1965, the Council will have to decide whether it is likely, or not, to engage and keep, meat inspectorate staff at the rates of salary now offered and working under the conditions imposed by the employment of three whole time inspectors, only.

The number of animals killed during the past four years are as under -

Year	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
1960	235	349	1,917	1,619	30,697
1961	446	650	6,436	7,199	66,338
1962	396	885	6,574	6,877	84,191
1963	87	898	5,026	4,668	80,531

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	87	898	5,026	4,668	80,531
Number inspected	87	893	5,017	4,635	68,602
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci					
Whole Carcases condemned	-	50	70	39	571
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	11	378	46	443	13,809
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	12.64	47.91	2.31	10.39	20.91
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcases condemned	-	1	-	-	25
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	3,658
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	.11	-	-	4.36
Cycistercosis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Butchers and Other Shops

Nine inspections were carried out. Thirty one pounds of meat were condemned as unfit.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	987	(2,063)
Total No. of informal notices served	33	(71)
Total No. of informal notices complied with	30	(58)
Total No. of statutory notices served	2	(6)
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	2	(5)
No. of prosecutions	Nil	(Nil)

The large reduction in the number of inspections carried out will be noted.

E. RADIATION HAZARDS

What information has been made available with regard to the results of monitoring background radiation from nuclear fall out, by Central Departments suggests that no deterioration has taken place in the position.

No premises in the district are registered under the Radioactive Substances Act, 1960 which came into operation toward the end of the year.

F. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Other than tuberculosis -

Disease	Total Cases Notified
Measles	120
Sonne Dysentery	18
Erysipelas	1

Tuberculosis -

New Cases Notified	
Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
1	-

Food Poisoning -

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health.